

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW
MAMMALS FROM SOUTHERN MEXICO,
COLLECTED BY E. W. NELSON.

BY C. HART MERRIAM, M. D.

Lepus orizabæ sp. nov.

MT. ORIZABA COTTONTAIL.

Type from Mt. ORIZABA, STATE OF PUEBLA, MEXICO (altitude about 9,500 feet). No. 53318 ♀ ad. United States National Museum, Department of Agriculture collection. Collected April 24, 1893, by E. W. Nelson (original number, 4730).

Measurements of Type Specimen (taken in flesh).—Total length, 395; tail vertebrae, 51; hind foot, 90.

General Characters.—Similar to *L. arizonæ* in general appearance and length of ear, but very much darker and differing considerably in color; pectoral band broad and full, forming a distinct ruff.

Color.—Head, back-saddle, and thigh streaks grizzled buffy clay-color and black, the admixture of black plentiful and uniform; flanks and rump mixed gray and black, the gray particularly clear on rump; upper side of tail grizzled drab-gray, with tips of hairs buffy; nape patch and fore and hind feet, dull

fulvous, palest on inner sides of hind feet; pectoral collar drab, with tips of long hairs buffy; chin, throat, middle of belly and under side of tail, pure white with under fur plumbeous except under tail, where the fur is white throughout; ears dull grayish brown, bordered apically with a brown band, which is not very well defined; anterior edge fringed with whitish.

Cranial Characters.—Skull similar to that of *L. arizonæ*, but with audital bullæ much smaller.

***Sciurus nelsoni* sp. nov.**

NELSON'S SQUIRREL.

Type from HUITZILAC, MORELOS, MEXICO. No. 51157 ♀ ad. United States National Museum, Department of Agriculture collection. Collected January 1, 1893, by E. W. Nelson (original number, 4144).

Measurements of Type Specimen (taken in flesh).—Total length, 500; tail vertebræ, 246; hind foot, 68. Average measurements of 4 specimens from type locality: Total length, 527; tail vertebræ, 262; hind foot, 70.

General Characters.—Premolars $\frac{2}{1}$; size large, about equaling *S. cervicalis*; color of upper parts uniform. No trace of nuchal patch or rump patch.

Color.—*Type Specimen*: Upper parts from nose to tail grizzled yellowish brown; under parts grizzled fulvous, purest on throat and breast, much mixed with black posteriorly; end of nose, ears, and feet black, the feet (both fore and hind) more or less grizzled (probably a seasonal character, as the feet are wholly black in most of the specimens); tail black; upper side with tips of hairs whitish; under side bordered with whitish. Below the broad subterminal black zone there is a concealed zone of dull fulvous.

Other Specimens.—Some specimens are much darker than others, and the difference seems to be seasonal. In some the head, feet, and legs are intense black. The feet are almost wholly black in nearly all the 14 specimens, and the under parts are usually blacker than in the type. The tail is usually black, washed above and on the sides with whitish, but in some specimens the under side is grizzled from admixture of black and dull buffy-gray. Two or three of the specimens show a whitish spot (usually rather indistinct) at the posterior base of the ear.

Specimens examined, 14: 4 from Huitzilac, Morelos; 9 from Ajuseo, Mexico, and 1 from Salazar, Mexico.

Thomomys orizabæ sp. nov.

MT. ORIZABA THOMOMYS.

Type from MT. ORIZABA, STATE OF PUEBLA, MEXICO (altitude, about 9,500 feet). No. 53616 ♀ ad. United States National Museum, Department of Agriculture collection. Collected April 25, 1893, by E. W. Nelson (original number, 4744).

Measurements (taken in flesh).—Type specimen: Total length, 217; tail vertebræ, 68; hind foot, 30. Average measurements of 13 specimens from type locality: total length, 213; tail vertebræ, 66; hind foot, 29.

General Characters.—Size medium; sooty-plumbeous phase dominant; fulvous phase resembling *T. fulvus*, but duller. Tail longer than in *T. fulvus*; well haired; fore and hind feet well haired.

Color.—*Plumbeous phase* (the type and 15 out of a total of 17 specimens from type locality are in this phase): Everywhere uniform slate-black (faintly paler below) except distal part of fore and hind feet, distal third of tail, and inside of cheek pouches, which are white (sometimes also a few white hairs about mouth and under chin). The color of the body always passes down over the wrists and ankles and usually reaches half way to the toes—sometimes further.

Fulvous phase: Upper parts dark umber-brown, becoming dusky on nose and dull fulvous on sides; under parts buffy-fulvous, the plumbeous basal fur showing through in places; under side of face blackish; feet and distal third of tail white. (Only 2 specimens, one of which is very young, out of a total of 17, are in this pelage.)

Cranial Characters.—The skull of *T. orizabæ* differs from that of *T. peregrinus* here described (the only species thus far recorded from southern Mexico) in the following particulars: Muzzle longer and much broader; frontals anteriorly much broader; ascending branches of premaxillæ much broader and blunter posteriorly. The breadth of muzzle across ascending branches of premaxillæ, and breadth of frontals anteriorly, is considerably greater than the interorbital breadth; in *peregrinus* the contrary is true.

Thomomys peregrinus sp. nov.

WANDERING THOMOMYS.

Type from SALAZAR, STATE OF MEXICO. No. 50130 ♀ yg.-ad. United States National Museum, Department of Agriculture Collection. Collected October 23, 1892, by E. W. Nelson (original number, 3668).

Measurements (taken in flesh.)—Type specimen: Total length, 207; tail vertebrae, 72; hind foot, 28.5. Average measurements of 10 specimens from type locality: Total length, 201; tail vertebrae, 57; hind foot, 28.

General Characters.—Similar to *T. fulvus*, but much darker and duller, lacking the bright golden-fulvous tints of that species, and differing also in cranial characters. The incisors curve far forward.

Color.—Upper parts dark umber-brown, becoming sooty-black on head and along middle of back, and dull fulvous on sides; end of nose, broad ring round mouth, and ear-patches blackish; under parts buffy, the plumbeous basal fur showing through; toes of fore feet, most of hind feet, and distal $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of tail white. On the hind feet the dark color of upper parts reaches down over ankles; on fore feet it usually comes down to or near bases of toes.

Cranial Characters.—Compared with *T. orizabæ* the muzzle is very narrow, the breadth across ascending branches of premaxillæ being much less than the interorbital breadth. The frontals anteriorly are also considerably narrower than interorbitally, and the premaxillæ are slender and pointed posteriorly. In young and middle-aged skulls the interparietal is straight posteriorly, broadly rounded anteriorly, and nearly twice as broad as long; in old skulls it is roughly subquadrate.